

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 01860 030441Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

----- 001869

R 030310Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 381

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1860

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJ: INCIDENT AT RAMASUN STATION

UDORN 0031 OF 01FEB75 BEING REPEATED, QUOTE:

R 311135Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO DOD SRT BANGKOK

7TH RRFS RANASUN STATION

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 031

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT RAMASUN STATION

REF : A. 7TH RRFS 28 1605Z JAN 75

B. UDORN 029, DTG 300935 JAN 75

1. JAN 30 WE TALKED WITH THE UDORN VICE GOVERNOR ABOUT THE GATE INCIDENT AND HE CALLED IN THE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF. (THE GOVERNOR WAS IN NAKHON PHANOM.) THEY THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO GET LUACHAI TO FORMALLY WITHDRAW HIS COMPLAINT AND SAID THE POLICE WOULD PROCEED TO DO THAT. THEY REASONED THAT IF A STORY GOT INTO THE PRESS THEY COULD CREDIBLY SAY THAT THE MATTER WAS CLOSED. I EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS COURSE, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE SPIRIT OF SIMPLY CLEARING THE RECORD, AND NOT AS A RESULT OF OUR APPROACH TO LOCAL OFFICIALS.

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2. A LOCAL UDORN PAPER HAS PRINTED A STORY ON THE RAMASUN GATE

INCIDENT. STORY APPEARED IN FEB 5 ISSUE OF "SIANG SIAM", WHICH ACTUALLY CAME OUT IN THE EVENING OF JAN 30. STORY IS NOT AS INFLAMMATORY AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. IT DOES NOT MENTION LUACHAI'S ALLEGATION OF THE POINTED SHOTGUN OR HIS BEING TAKEN TO THE PROVOST MARSHALL'S OFFICE, ALTHOUGH IT DOES SAY THE M.P.'S HIT LUACHAI IN THE FACE. IT ALSO GIVES A MORE HEROIC ROLE TO THE HIGHWAY POLICE, WHICH MAY HELP SOOTH ANY RUFFLED NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS.

3. WE SO FAR HAVE HAD NO LOCAL INQUIRIES. IF QUERIED WE WILL RESPOND ALONG LINES PROPOSED IN REF B UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, GIVING THE MINIMUM OF DETAIL WE CAN CREDIBLY GIVE.

4. TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

(HEADLINE) "AMERICANS AT RAMASUN ASSAULT A THAI; HIGHWAY POLICE CAME TO HELP JUST IN TIME."

(SUMMARY)" JUST BECAUSE THE THAI EMPLOYEE PARKED HIS PERSONAL CAR AT THE WRONG PLACE TWO AMERICANS USED FORCE AND A GUN TO GET HIM OUT OF THE CAR. THE THAI HIGHWAY POLICE HAD TO COME TO RESCUE HIM."

(TEXT) "ON JAN 28 (SIC) AT ABOUT 1800 HRS, MR. LUACHAI JITPAKDEE COMPLAINED TO THE POLICE THAT ON JAN 27, HE HAD PARKED HIS CAR AT THE PARKING LOT PROVIDED BY THE CAMP, BUT TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS-SGT COOPER AND SGT JANNY (SIC) TOLD HIM TO MOVE HIS CAR AND PARK IT SOME PLACE ELSE. LUACHAI CLAIMED THAT HE PARKED AT THIS SPOT EVERY DAY. THE TWO AMERICANS GOT MAD AND PULLED HIM OUT OF HIS CAR AS WELL AS STARTED HITTING HIM IN THE FACE. WHILE THE INCIDENT WAS TAKING PLACE, CAPT FACE AND ANOTHER SECURITY POLICEMAN CAME OUT WITH A SHOT GUN, ACCUSING HIM OF RESISTING OFFICERS WHO WERE PERFORMING THEIR DUTY. LUACHAI ARGUED THAT THE TWO SGTS DID NOT LIKE HIM PERSONNALLY AND TRIED TO CAUSE THE TROUBLE. WHILE THE HEATED ARGUEMENT WAS GOING ON THE HIGHWAY POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND ASKED THE AMERICANS TO LET HIM GO. LUACHAI SAID THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE AMERICANS WAS EXCESSIVE AND CAUSED HIM BODILY INJURY AS WELL AS PROPERTY DAMAGE. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST THE AMERICANS. AT THE SAME TIME MR. LUACHAI HAS GONE TO REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE AMERICAN CONSUL."

BIGELOW. UNQUOTE KINTNER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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